UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,962	12/29/2000	Terry June Linsey	LOT9-2000-0029 US1	9960

27085 7590 06/03/2004

IBM CORPORATION
LOTUS SOFTWARE
ONE ROGERS STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

EXAMINER	
VU, KIEU D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	12

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/752,962	LINSEY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kieu D Vu	2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 April 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19 and 21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19 and 21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said searchable object" in line 14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 21, it is not clear that "set of hits" in line 13 refers to "set of hits" generated by search selector (in lines 6-8) or "set of hits" generated by what's new selector (in lines 9-12). It is also not clear that "set of hits" in line 18 refers to "set of hits" generated by search selector (in lines 6-8) or "set of hits" generated by what's new selector (in lines 9-12).

In this Office Action, "set of hits" of lines 13 and line 18 is understood to refer to "set of hits" generated by search selector.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grau et al ("Grau", USP 5910803) and Salas et al ("Salas", USP 6314408).

Regarding claims 1 and 19, Grau teaches a method for browsing comprising the steps of presenting a user interface (col 1, lines 63-67) on a searchable object (col 2, lines 12-14); responsive to user entry of a search of a selectable object, presenting search result in main window 600 (col 2, lines 9-18), providing in the main window 600 in said interface a quick browse selector 615; responsive to user selection of said quick browse selector, searching said searchable object to generate a set of hits (maps), creating a set of links (a list of map names) to said of hits (maps) to control said main window without losing context (col 7, lines 52-53), displaying said context in a separate quick browse window within said main window in a simpler format (left pane 610 in Fig 6), with an entry (map name) in said separate quick browse window for each item in said set of hits (maps) ; and responsive to user selection of an item (name of a desired map) in said quick browse window, displaying in said main window an object (desired map) linked to said item (pane 620 in Fig. 6). Grau differs from the claim in that Grau does not explicitly teach that this method of browsing can be applied in collaboration space. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Salas. Salas teaches a collaborative work environment which comprises a browser for browsing and displaying links (Fig. 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Salas before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the browsing method using quick browse window taught by Grau to include Salas' collaboration environment with the motivation being to obtain a management tool which

can be managed by multiple users in collaboration environment and which can quickly and efficiently display search results to members.

Regarding claim 2, Salas teaches the step of organizing said collaboration space according to an object model selectively including room (eRoom), folder (col 6, line 49), page (col 4, lines 63-64), member (col 3, line 2).

Regarding claim 3, Grau teaches that the simpler format being a hypertext markup language format (link).

Regarding claim 4, Salas teaches the implementing as a room (eRoom) in said collaboration space.

Regarding claim 5, Grau teaches the implementing said quick browse selector as a remote control selector in a search results window (search and display the desired map).

Regarding claim 6, Grau teaches, responsive to user selection of a link (map name) to a target page (a desired map) in said quick browse window 615, of reloading said main window with said target page (the desired map).

Regarding claim 7, Salas teaches the displaying changes (col 16, lines 29-33).

Regarding claims 8-9, Grau teaches enabling random access browsing of links (according to user's desire).

Regarding claim 10, Grau teaches a site map (line 66 of col 7 to line 3 of col 8).

Regarding claim 11, Grau teaches the step of generating said site map as a simple rendering of an access controlled table of context hierarchy (line 66 of col 7 to line 3 of col 8).

Regarding claim 12, Grau teaches the steps of displaying said quick browse window in minimal screen space 610 while said user browses target pages and allowing said user to see and access local settings of said target page so as to display context of said target page (col 12, lines 10-21).

Regarding claim 13, Grau teaches that said context includes location.

6. Claims 14-18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grau, Salas, and Rodden et al ("Rodden", USP 6473102).

Regarding claim 14, Grau teaches a method for browsing comprising the steps of presenting a user interface (col 1, lines 63-67) on a searchable object (col 2, lines 12-14); providing in a main window 600 in said interface a quick browse selector 615; responsive to user selection of said quick browse selector, searching said searchable object to generate a set of hits (maps), creating a set of links (a list of map names) to said of hits (maps) to control said main window without losing context (col 7, lines 52-53), displaying said context in a separate quick browse window within said main window in a simpler format (left pane 610 in Fig 6), with an entry (map name) in said separate quick browse window for each item in said set of hits (maps) ; and responsive to user selection of an item (name of a desired map) in said quick browse window, displaying in said main window an object (desired map) linked to said item (pane 620 in Fig. 6). Grau differs from the claim in that Grau does not explicitly teach that this method of browsing can be applied in collaboration space. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Salas. Salas teaches a collaborative work environment which comprises a browser for browsing and displaying links (Fig. 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Salas before him at the time

the invention was made, to apply the browsing method using quick browse window taught by Grau in Salas collaboration environment with the motivation being to quickly and efficiently display search results to members. Grau does not teach that the separate quick browse window can be floating. However, the feature of floating window is known in the art as taught by Rodden. Rodden teaches a method for automatically resizing and repositioning windows in response to changes in display. Rodden further teaches a floating window 42 which always appears in the foreground of the user interface (col 3, lines 46-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Rodden before him at the time the invention was made, to apply the window floating feature taught by Rodden in the quick browser window taught by Grau with the motivation being to enable the system to always display the quick browser window on top of any other windows so that the user can quickly conveniently access the quick browser window.

Regarding claim 15, Salas teaches the step of organizing said collaboration space according to an object model selectively including room (eRoom), folder (col 6, line 49), page (col 4, lines 63-64), member (col 3, line 2).

Regarding claim 16, Salas teaches the search (col 10, lines 58-60) and the changes (col 16, lines 29-33).

Regarding claim 17, Salas teaches the help (Fig. 12).

Regarding claim 18, Grau teaches the opening of quick browse window (615 in Fig. 6).

Regarding claim 21, Grau teaches presenting an interface (col 1, lines 63-67) which includes a search selector (col 2, lines 12-14), responsive to user selection of

said search selector and entry of a search argument, search and generate a set of hits (maps), presenting said set of hits to said user in a main window 600 together with a quick browse selector 615; responsive to said user selecting said quick browse selector, presenting to said user in a window 615 of said interface said set of hits as selector items (map names) and responsive to said user selecting a selector item (name of a map) in said window, presenting to said user in said main window an object linked to said selector item (map) while maintaining said set of hits in said window (see Fig. 6). Grau does not teach the searching and generating hits for new elements. However, this feature is old and known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the mapping tool taught by Grau to include the searching and generating hits for new items with the motivation being to present to users new and updated maps. Grau does not explicitly teach that this method of browsing can be applied in collaboration space. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Salas. Salas teaches a collaborative work environment which comprises a browser for browsing and displaying links (Fig. 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Salas before him at the time the invention was made, to apply the browsing method using quick browse window taught by Grau in Salas collaboration environment with the motivation being to quickly and efficiently display search results to members. Grau does not teach that the separate quick browse window can be floating. However, the feature of floating window is known in the art as taught by Rodden. Rodden teaches a method for automatically resizing and repositioning windows in response to changes in display. Rodden further teaches a floating window 42 which

always appears in the foreground of the user interface (col 3, lines 46-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Rodden before him at the time the invention was made, to apply the window floating feature taught by Rodden in the quick browser window taught by Grau with the motivation being to enable the system to always display the quick browser window on top of any other windows so that the user can quickly conveniently access the quick browser window.

7. Response to Applicant's arguments:

Applicant's arguments filed 03/11/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that neither Salas or Rodden teaches the searching concept, it is noted that Grau, in lines 12-15 of col. 2, teaches the "retrieve the topology data", therefore, in a reasonable interpretation, Grau teaches searching technique. Maps, which are "hits" from retrieving topology data (user initiated search), have links (map names 612) in a separate window 615.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu D. Vu whose telephone number is (703-605-1232). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703- 308-3116).

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-872-9306

and / or:

(703)-746-5639 (use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper / amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Kieu D. Vu

05/25/04

JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100